IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claim, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 13, 16-19, and 25 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A console switch that selectively connects a terminal to a hardware port of an information processing device that has a plurality of hardware ports connected through a network, the console switch comprising:

a first unit that obtains information from the terminal, the information specifying the hardware port of the information processing device to be connected;

a second unit that refers to a predetermined database in accordance with the information obtained by the first unit, and establishes a connection path between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device;

an examining unit that examines transmission and reception data generated between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device in order to determine whether the transmission and reception data ~~generated between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device~~ are to be accumulated as logs; and

a memory unit that stores the transmission and reception data when the transmission and reception data are to be accumulated as logs.

2. (previously presented) The console switch as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a third unit that automatically connects to each hardware port of the information processing device after activation of the console switch.

3. (previously presented) The console switch as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a fourth unit that, after activation of the console switch, obtains the MAC address and the IP address of the information processing device, associate the MAC address and the IP address of the information processing device with the information, and stores the MAC address and the IP address associated with the information in the predetermined database.

4. (previously presented) The console switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when a connection path has not yet been established between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device corresponding to the information obtained by the first unit, the second unit detects the IP address from the MAC address of the information processing device corresponding to the obtained information, and then establishes a connection path between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device.

5. (previously presented) The console switch as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a fifth unit that outputs a message to notify that a connection to the terminal has been established, when a connection path between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device has been established by the second unit.

6. (previously presented) The console switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information includes a port number allocated to the hardware port of the information processing device, or a port name allocated to the hardware port of the information processing device.

7. (original) The console switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined database is managed as a text file.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) The console switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the memory unit stores messages to be outputted onto a screen of the terminal.

10. (previously presented) The console switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the memory unit stores data outputted from the hardware port of the information processing device.

11. (previously presented) The console switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the memory unit stores the transmission and reception data in association with one of a date, a terminal path, user information, and a server connection path.

12. (previously presented) The console switch as claimed in claim 1, further

comprising a first tuning button that exchanges the information with another console switch connected to the network, the another console switch having a second tuning button that exchanges the information with the console switch.

13. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a terminal;

an information processing device that has a plurality of hardware ports; and

a console switch that is connected to and interposed between the terminal and the information processing device, and establishes a connection path between the terminal and a hardware port of the information processing device,

the console switch comprising:

a first unit that obtains information from the terminal, the information specifying the port of the information processing device to be connected;

a second unit that refers to a predetermined database in accordance with the information obtained by the first unit, and establishes a connection path between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device;

an examining unit that examines transmission and reception data generated between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device in order to determine whether the transmission and reception data ~~generated between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device~~ are to be accumulated as logs; and

a memory unit that stores the transmission and reception data when the transmission and reception data are to be accumulated as logs.

14. (original) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the information processing device is cascade-connected.

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a first console switch; and

a second console switch that is connected to the first console switch through a network,

the first console switch and the second console switch each selectively connecting a terminal to a hardware port of an information processing device that has a plurality of hardware ports connected through a network,

the first console switch and the second console switch each comprising:

a first unit that obtains information from the terminal, the information specifying the hardware port of the information processing device to be connected;

a second unit that refers to a predetermined database in accordance with the information obtained by the first unit, and establishes a connection path between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device;

an examining unit that examines transmission and reception data generated between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device in order to determine whether the transmission and reception data ~~generated between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device~~ are to be accumulated as logs; and

a memory unit that stores the transmission and reception data when the transmission and reception data are to be accumulated as logs.

17. (currently amended) A method of selectively connecting a terminal to a hardware port of an information processing device that has a plurality of hardware ports connected through a network,

the method comprising:

obtaining information from the terminal, the information specifying the hardware port of the information processing device to be connected;

referring to a predetermined database in accordance with the obtained information, and then establishing a connection path between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device;

examining transmission and reception data generated between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device in order to determine whether the transmission and reception data ~~generated between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device~~ are to be accumulated as logs; and

storing the transmission and reception data when the transmission and reception data are to be accumulated as logs.

18. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising performing automatic connection to each hardware port of the information processing device, ~~after activation of the method.~~

19. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising~~,~~

~~after activation of the method,~~ obtaining the MAC address and the IP address of the information processing device, and storing the MAC address and the IP address of the information processing device in the predetermined database, the MAC address and the IP address being associated with the information.

20. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein, when a connection path has not yet been established between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device corresponding to the port information obtained in the information obtaining, the IP address of the information processing device is detected from the MAC address of the information processing device corresponding to the obtained information, and a connection path is then established between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device.

21. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising outputting a message to notify that a connection to the terminal has been established, when a connection path between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device has been established.

22. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the information includes a port number allocated to the hardware port of the information processing device, or a port name allocated to the hardware port of the information processing device.

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising interactively exchanging the information with a device connected to the network.

25. (currently amended) A computer program product for causing a computer to selectively connect a terminal to a hardware port of an information processing device that has a plurality of hardware ports connected through a network,

the program comprising:

instructions for obtaining information from the terminal, the information specifying the hardware port of the information processing device to be connected;

instructions for referring to a predetermined database in accordance with the obtained

information, and then establishing a connection path between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device;

instructions for examining transmission and reception data generated between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device in order to determine whether the transmission and reception data ~~generated between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device~~ are to be accumulated as logs; and

instructions for storing the transmission and reception data when the transmission and reception data are to be accumulated as logs.

26. (previously presented) The computer program product as claimed in claim 25, further comprising instructions for performing automatic connection to each hardware port of the information processing device after activation of the computer.

27. (previously presented) The computer program product as claimed in claim 25, further comprising instructions for obtaining, after activation of the computer, the MAC address and the IP address of the information processing device, and then storing the MAC address and the IP address of the information processing device in the predetermined database, the MAC address and the IP address being associated with the information.

28. (previously presented) The computer program product as claimed in claim 25, wherein, when a connection path has not yet been established between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device corresponding to the obtained port information, the IP address of the information processing device is detected from the MAC address of the information processing device corresponding to the obtained information, and then a connection path is established between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device.

29. (previously presented) The computer program product as claimed in claim 25, further comprising instructions for outputting a message to notify that a connection to the terminal has been established, when the connection path between the terminal and the hardware port of the information processing device has been established.

30. (previously presented) The computer program product as claimed in claim 25, wherein the information includes a port number allocated to the hardware port of the

information processing device, or a port name associated with the hardware port of the information processing device.

31. (cancelled)

32. (previously presented) The computer program product as claimed in claim 25, further comprising instructions for interactively exchanging the information with a device connected to the network.